

With many issues still unresolved in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, Good Jobs New York is keeping the spotlight on government money in the rebuilding process. For more on opportunities for community involvement, follow us on Twitter @GoodJobsNewYork #EyeOnSandyMoney. And let us know how we can make this alert better.

## Keeping an Eye on Recovery Money Hurricane Sandy News Round-up: June 25-July 9

*The Hurricane Sandy News Round-up is a bi-weekly publication.*

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### In the headlines

#### Disaster Relief

U.S. Rep. Nydia Velazquez (D-NY) gave a [statement](#) at a hearing of the House Small Business Committee on the Small Business Administration's disaster loan program. The complete hearing can be viewed [here](#).

Two bills related to Hurricane Sandy disaster relief passed in the New York State legislature. One establishes standards for investigating insurance claim settlements, and the second requires more oversight and public information on how Sandy recovery funds are being spent by the state. [The Times-Ledger](#)

FEMA announced that after September 15 it will no longer accept requests to review Sandy-related flood insurance claims. FEMA has mailed letters to all National Flood Insurance policy holders offering the opportunity to have their files reviewed. Currently, four percent of eligible claim-holders have requested a review. [Insurance Journal](#)

Research published in the American Journal of Kidney Diseases reveals how some dialysis patients in New Jersey received early treatment in advance of Hurricane Sandy and were 20% less likely to require emergency intervention as a result. The study will be used by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to help medical providers around the country develop disaster preparedness plans. [NJ Spotlight](#) and [MarketWatch](#)

The Urban Justice Center Mental Health Project is collecting information about mental health services available to New Yorkers during and after Sandy. Interested individuals are invited to participate in a brief [survey](#).

The Great Neck Historical Society in Long Island is working to secure funding from FEMA to restore the Saddle Rock Grist Mill, which was damaged by Sandy. [Examiner](#)

### Rebuilding Infrastructure and Resiliency

New Jersey officials say they are preparing contingency plans in case one of the Sandy-damaged Hudson River Amtrak tunnels needs to be closed for emergency repairs. But they warn that traffic in the entire region will be significantly affected and that the emergency plans rely on increased ferry service and encouraging commuters to work from home. [NJ Advance](#)

Work on a luxury condominium and hotel being constructed at Brooklyn's Pier 1 has been halted due to a lawsuit filed by neighbors claiming the developers exceeded the approved height limit and thereby obstructed views of the Brooklyn Bridge. (The building's mechanical systems were moved to the roof post-Sandy, necessitating the increased height to comply with its location in the flood zone.) Increasingly, luxury high rise construction is taking place on the waterfront in flood zones as these risky developments remain lucrative for the real estate tax revenue they provide the city. [The New Yorker](#)

Six municipalities in the Hudson Valley are among 83 statewide that have been granted \$100,000 each to implement microgrids in their communities. The awards are part of the NY Prize microgrid competition. [Chappaqua-Mount Kisco Patch](#)

ALSO: The Stewart Airport was also awarded a \$100,000 grant to conduct a microgrid feasibility study as part of the competition. [Mid-Hudson News](#)

Since Hurricane Sandy, mutual assistance from utilities in neighboring states has helped return area power more quickly following severe weather. [Fierce Energy](#)

ALSO: Solar-powered cell phone charging stations, first tested in New York City after Sandy, are being installed in Canada. [Woodstock Sentinel Review](#)

Construction has resumed at the New York Aquarium's new shark exhibit, which was damaged during Sandy. [New York Daily News](#)

A facility manager for a large data center describes essentials for building resiliency. [FacilitiesNet](#)

## Housing

The estimate that nearly 9,000 people in New Jersey remain displaced from their homes due to Sandy damage does not include those who were not enrolled in the state's housing repair program. The Ocean County Long-Term Recovery Group estimates that 20,000 New Jersey families remain displaced from their primary homes. [NJ Advance](#)

ALSO: Staten Island non-profit organization Yellow Boots will hold a fundraiser in September to benefit families still displaced by Sandy. [Staten Island Advance](#)

## Jobs

New York City Councilmember Chaim Deutsch held an open house for community members to meet with the Sandy Workforce1 program manager to apply for jobs in the Build it Back recovery. [Sheepshead Bites](#)

**Subscribe to the new Build it Back newsletter for regular updates of the city's progress with housing recovery efforts.**

## Events

## Regional Events

Ongoing, citywide: [New York Free Disaster Assistance Legal Clinics](#).

Workforce1 is hosting a series of information sessions where individuals can learn more about pre-apprenticeship opportunities in the construction industry, doing work with the Build it Back program on Sandy related repairs. Please [register](#) to receive an appointment time.

**Wednesday, July 15, 2:30-4:00 pm:** Webinar: [Building Resiliency in Your Economy](#). Registration required.

**Action item: August 10-11:** The Department of Health and Human Services Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response will convene a Hurricane Sandy Conference: [Translating Research into Practice public meeting](#). "The purpose of the meeting is to broadly share, with interested stakeholders, outcomes of Hurricane Sandy recovery science research and training projects."

Do you have a group interested in helping with the Sandy rebuild? Check out [this list](#) of ongoing service opportunities to help with hurricane Sandy rebuilding and revitalization.

## Advocacy Reports

Fair Share Housing: [The State of Recovery - Two and a Half Years later, over 15,000 families still waiting to rebuild. Second Annual report](#)

Association for Neighborhood and Housing Development: [Social Resiliency and Superstorm Sandy: Lessons from New York City Community Organizations](#)

LES Ready!: [Getting LES Ready: Learning from Hurricane Sandy to create a community-based disaster plan for the future](#)

Center for Disaster Philanthropy; Council of New Jersey Grantmakers; Foundation Center; Philanthropy New York: [Philanthropy and Hurricane Sandy: A Report on the Foundation and Corporate Response](#). A new report looks at the role of philanthropy in the response to Hurricane Sandy and how contributions help fund community advocacy, social services and other redevelopment planning processes.

Union of Concerned Scientists: [Encroaching Tides: How Sea Level Rise and Tidal Flooding Threaten U.S. East and Gulf Coast Communities over the Next 30 Years](#)

The Center for New York City Neighborhoods: [Rising Tides, Rising Costs](#)

[FloodHelpNY](#) is a dynamic map that allows users to find out what their flood insurance rate will be when new federal flood maps are available in 2016 and provides links to information on purchasing flood insurance.

For more advocacy resources, visit Good Jobs New York's [Keeping an Eye on Hurricane Sandy Recovery Money](#)

## Federal, State & Local Resources

[One New York: The Plan for a Strong and Just City](#)

[National Flood Insurance Program and Mitigation Resource List](#)

Office of the New York City Comptroller: [Audit Report on the Administration of the New York City Build It Back Single Family Program By the Mayor's Office of Housing Recovery Operations](#)

U.S. Department of Labor Office of Inspector General audit: [Superstorm Sandy National Emergency Grants: ETA Awarded Funds Promptly, But Could Improve Grant Modification and Eligibility Verification Processes](#)

[Building the Knowledge Base for Climate Resiliency: New York City Panel on Climate Change 2015 Report](#)

The Army Corps of Engineers: [North Atlantic Coast Comprehensive Study Report and Related Documents](#)

Governor's Office of Storm Recovery: [New York Rising 2012-2014](#)

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: [Primary Protection: Enhancing Health care Resilience for a Changing Climate](#)

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Office of the Inspector General audit: [The City of New York, Office of Management and Budget, administration of CDBG -DR Assistance Funds awarded to the city.](#)

Northeast-Midwest Institute: [Building a Climate-Resilient Great Lakes: Federal Resources and Assistance for State and Local Governments](#)

New York City Economic Development Corporation and New York City Department of City Planning: [Water Street: Transforming Water Street's Privately Owned Public Spaces \(POPS\)](#)

Office of the New York City Comptroller, [On the Frontlines: \\$129 billion in property at risk from flood waters](#)

ALSO: Good Jobs New York provides a critique of the federal Task Force recommendations in a [three-part blog series](#).

For more resources, visit Good Jobs New York's [Keeping an Eye on Hurricane Sandy Recovery Money](#)

### **We'd love to hear from you!**

Check out our resources on Hurricane Sandy money at our website. Or follow us on Twitter: [@GoodJobsNewYork](#) [#EyeOnSandyMoney](#). Please forward your suggestions on how we can make this round-up more useful to you in your work.

### **Contact us**

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